

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A milking parlor for milking a plurality of mammals, comprising a plurality of stalls having respective shoulder bars guidingly locating the shoulders of the mammal in a milking position, said bars having respective resilient bumpers engaging said shoulders in deformable cushioning
5 relation.
2. The milking parlor according to claim 1 wherein a respective said stall aligns a respective said mammal along a respective longitudinal axis from head to rump of the mammal and parallel to the backbone of the mammal and bisecting the shoulders of the mammal on laterally opposite sides of said
5 axis, said bumpers flexing laterally outwardly away from said axis and also permitting continued longitudinal movement of the mammal along said axis during said lateral outward flexing, to accommodate different size mammals including mammals of differing longitudinal length.
3. The milking parlor according to claim 2 wherein each said bumper has a first sidewall having an outer surface engaging and mounted to a respective said bar, and an inner surface opposite to said outer surface, and a second sidewall extending in an arc from said first sidewall in a loop and
5 returning to said first sidewall to define a hollow interior, said second sidewall having an outer surface engaging said shoulder of said mammal, and an inner surface opposite to said outer surface of said second sidewall and facing said inner surface of said first sidewall across said hollow interior, such that engagement of said shoulder of said mammal with said outer surface of said
10 second sidewall deforms said second sidewall and pushes said second sidewall into said hollow interior such that said inner surface of said second sidewall moves toward said inner surface of said first sidewall.

4. The milking parlor according to claim 3 comprising a bolt extending through said bar and through said first sidewall and into said hollow interior for mounting said bumper to said bar.

5. The milking parlor according to claim 4 comprising a stabilizing plate in said hollow interior and engaging said inner surface of said first sidewall and through which said bolt extends for mounting said bumper to said bar.

6. The milking parlor according to claim 3 wherein said hollow interior has a D-shape, with said inner surface of said first sidewall forming the flat planar extension of the D, and with said inner surface of said second sidewall forming the curved arcuate extension of the D.

7. For a milking parlor for milking a plurality of mammals in a plurality of milking stalls having respective shoulder bars guidingly locating the shoulders of the mammal in a milking position, a resilient bumper for engaging the shoulder of the mammal in deformable cushioning relation.

8. The bumper according to claim 7 wherein said bumper has a hollow interior providing limited collapse upon engagement by said shoulder, and resiliently returning to a non-collapsed state upon disengagement by said shoulder, said bumper having a resiliently flexible portion deforming into said hollow interior upon said engagement by said shoulder, and resiliently returning to said non-collapsed state upon said disengagement by said shoulder.

9. The bumper according to claim 8 wherein said bumper has a first sidewall having an outer surface engaging and mounted to a respective said bar, and an inner surface opposite to said outer surface, and a second sidewall extending in an arc from said first sidewall in a loop and returning to said first sidewall to define said hollow interior, said second sidewall having an outer surface engagable by said shoulder, and an inner surface opposite to said outer surface of said second sidewall and facing said inner surface of said first sidewall across said hollow interior, such that engagement of said shoulder with said outer surface of said second sidewall deforms said second sidewall and

10 pushes said second sidewall into said hollow interior such that said inner surface of said second sidewall moves toward said inner surface of said first sidewall.

10. The bumper according to claim 9 further comprising a bolt extending through said bar and through said first sidewall and into said hollow interior for mounting said bumper to said bar.

11. The bumper according to claim 10 further comprising a stabilizing plate in said hollow interior and engaging said inner surface of said first sidewall and through which said bolt extends for mounting said bumper to said bar.

12. The bumper according to claim 9 wherein said hollow interior has a D-shape, with said inner surface of said first sidewall forming the flat planar extension of the D, and with said inner surface of said second sidewall forming the curved arcuate extension of the D.

13. The bumper according claim 9 wherein said outer surface of said first sidewall of said bumper has an arcuate configuration mating with said bar, and wherein each of said outer and inner surfaces of said second sidewall of said bumper has an arcuate configuration.

14. The bumper according to claim 13 wherein said inner surface of said first sidewall of said bumper has a flat planar configuration.